



Board Bulletin

February 21, 2014

Group Health Fund Analysis

Expenses for the group health and dental fund over the first seven (7) months of the fiscal year are trending under budget. In fact, revenues at the end of January 2014 exceeded expenditures by \$421,000. As a means of comparison, expenditures actually exceeded revenues by \$91,000 at the end of January 2013.

Further, please note the Group Health Fund currently has in excess of \$1.2 million in reserves. Best practice suggests having reserves/fund balance equal to or greater than three (3) months of claims. On average, three (3) months of claims for the County equate to \$1.05 million. The County currently has 3.4 months of claims in reserves so the fund is fiscally solvent.

Fiscal Year 13-14 Sales Tax Update

Sales tax revenues for December 2013 (February report) were \$121,496 (24%) greater than November 2013 (January report). Further, the December 2013 sales tax revenue amount was \$67,973 (12.3%) higher than December 2012. December's sales tax revenues were the highest since July 2013 (September report).

Additionally, when comparing sales tax results for Q1 and Q2 of FY 13-14 versus the same time period in FY 12-13, revenues are up \$82,716 (2.4%). Lastly, sales tax revenues are trending ahead of the budget target by close to \$75,000.

Food Stamps & NC FAST Update

Recently the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) was threatening to withhold federal reimbursement revenue from the State and subsequently counties. This action was a direct result of issues stemming from the State's implementation of the new NC FAST automated benefits system for social services.

The State's roll-out of NC FAST created significant delays for counties with respect to food stamp processing. As such, many individuals did not receive their food stamps for an extended period of time, and this caused the USDA to take corrective action against the State and counties.

The State was given a deadline to eliminate the backlog of food stamp cases, and early last week the State was granted a reprieve from USDA for making significant progress toward the goal.

Stanly County's DSS staff has worked extremely hard over the past several months to eliminate and prevent backlog cases. Currently there are three (3) backlog cases, but the State has taken accountability for each case since they are a result of a technical system error.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Board Planning Retreat	Friday, February 21 9:00 AM Airport
Stanly COG Meeting	Tuesday, February 25 6:30 PM First Baptist, Stanfield
Regular Board Meeting	Monday, March 3 7:00 PM Commons Meeting Room